

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
----- 122379

R 102137Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO USDOC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8300

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2267

EO 11652: N/A

AWAGS: BEXP ES

SUBJ: SAN LORENZO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2095, STATE 122041

1. CEL HAS INFORMED HARZA OF ITS INTEREST IN CONTRACTING
INDEPENDENT, PREFERABLY USG HYDROELECTRIC ENGINEER TO REVIEW
HARZA DESIGN FOR SAN LORENZO PROJECT.

2. KEN SORENSEN, PRESIDENT OF HARZA INTERNATIONAL SUBSEQUENTLY
TELEPHONED ECONOFF TIM BROWN TO ASK REASON FOR CEL REQUEST.
SORENSEN APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND CEL'S REASONS AND SAID THAT THIS
PROCEDURE IS NOT UNUSUAL. HARZA IS QUITE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AND
ASSIST WITH INDEPENDENT REVIEW BUT SORENSEN STRONGLY URGED THAT
CEL BE ASSISTED WITH CONTRACTING A USG SPECIALIST, PREFERABLY FROM
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, RATHER THAN A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR SEPARATE
U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRY COMMERCIAL FIRM.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, VALIENTE OF CEL REITERATED REQUEST
FOR USG HELP IN LOCATING AN INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST, PREFERABLY
FROM A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT LAST
WEEK HE TURNED DOWN A JAPANESE OFFER TO PROVIDE DESIGN REVIEW, AND
MANAGED TO BLOCK AN ATTEMPT IN A CEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TO PASS A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF SEEKING EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY URGES USDOC TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT
TO LOCATE A QUALIFIED USG ENGINEER. AS CEL'S INTEREST IS NOW
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PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, USDOC MAY WISH TO DISCUSS ITS ACTIONS WITH

SORENSEN OF HARZA.

5. FYI: FINANCING OF SAN LORENZO IS BEING DISCUSSED WITH IDB,
IBRD AND COMMERCIAL BANK CONSORTIUM. HOWEVER, IBRD AND GOES
RELATIONSHIP AT THE MOMENT IS FLUID. FRICTION OVER AHUACHAPAN
GEOTHERMAL PROJECT AND A CEL MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT CONTACT.
ESTIMATED FINANCING NEEDED WILL BE ABOUT \$125 MILLION.
CAMPBELL

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